

## **CLAIMS**

1. A method of cementing the annulus of an oil or gas well having a casing centering within a hole bored from a surface, the method comprising the steps of introducing an effective amount of colouring agent contained in a water-soluble bag into a water-based separating fluid, pumping said water-based separating fluid ahead of a cementing slurry down the casing to the bottom of the hole to displace drilling mud upwardly through the annulus to the surface, until the colouring agent becomes visible at the surface, displacing the casing volume and then stopping the pumping and allowing the pumped cement slurry to harden.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the water-based separating fluid is a spacer or a scavenger fluid.
3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the water-soluble bag is made from polyvinyl alcohol, the colouring agent being sealed in the bag to keep it dry until use.
4. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the colouring agent is a powder selected from dyes or pigments conventionally used to colour concrete.
5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the dye is selected from the group comprising carbon black, iron oxide, phthalocyanine, umber, chromium oxide, titanium oxide, and cobalt blue.
6. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the dye is a powder selected from dyes conventionally used to colour concrete.
7. A product for carrying out the method of Claim 1, which product comprises an effective amount of colouring agent contained in a water-soluble bag, the colouring agent being sealed within the bag to keep the colouring agent dry until use.

8. A product according to Claim 7, wherein the colouring agent comprises a powdered admixture used to colour concrete.
9. A product according to Claim 8, wherein the admixture comprises one or more pigments selected from the group comprising carbon black, iron oxide, phthalocyanine, umber, chromium oxide, titanium oxide, and cobalt blue.
10. A product according to Claim 7, wherein about 2.5 lbs of colouring agent are contained in the bag.
11. A product according to Claim 7, wherein the bag is made of sheets of polyvinyl alcohol.
12. A product according to Claim 11, wherein the sheets are of thickness of about 2 mil.